



## **News Release**

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **Heroic Tribute for Response to Fatal Bus Tragedy and Crandall Mine Disaster**

*2008 National EMS Week: Your Life is Our Mission*

(Salt Lake City, Utah) – The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) paid tribute to the emergency medical professionals representing the many dedicated heroes whose mission is saving lives. The annual EMS Award Ceremony commemorated the 2008 National EMS Week, May 18-23, 2008. Special recognition was given to those who responded to a fatal tourist bus accident near Mexican Hat, and the dedicated individuals who stood by to help at the Crandall Canyon Mine disaster.

“The theme for this year is, “EMS: Your Life is Our Mission” which gives us the opportunity to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers,” said EMS Bureau Director Paul Patrick. “The emergency medical services system consists of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators, and others who, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills.” Patrick added.

“As I reflect on the many lives the men and women in the EMS profession have affected, my respect and admiration for their commitment and fortitude continues to expand,” said Dr. David N. Sundwall, Executive Director, UDOH. “It is one of the highlights of the year to have the opportunity to thank them and acknowledge their remarkable service.”

The EMS Week Awards are presented by the UDOH’s Bureau of Emergency Medical Services in cooperation with the Sandy City Fire Department.

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For more information on the EMS Awards Ceremony, visit UDOH's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services Web site at [www.health.utah.gov/ems](http://www.health.utah.gov/ems)

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*The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care and promoting healthy lifestyles.*